

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 08759 310602Z

14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 EUR-25 EB-11 TRSE-00

DRC-01 /183 W

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R 310435Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1826

INFO CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: ROKG DEFENDS POLICIES

REF: SEOUL 8749

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT PARK'S DEMAND TO STOP SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN AND OTHER AGITATION AGAINST YUSHIN SYSTEM (REFTEL) HAS BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY FURTHER VERBAL BARRAGE BY GOVT AND DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN PARTY (DRP) IN DEFENSE OF GOVT POLICIES. GOVT HAS PREPARED FOR PUBLIC USE LEAFLET EXPLAINING POLICIES ON MAJOR QUESTIONS INCLUDING PRESS FREEDOM, SOUTH-NORTH DIALOGUE AND U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE.

2. AT DRP CAUCUS DEC 27 DEPUTY PARTY CHAIRMAN YI HYU-SANG PREDICTED POLITICAL HARD TIMES FOR ROKG IN THE SPRING, NOTING THAT STUDENT UNREST WOULD COINCIDE WITH DOMESTIC PROBLEMS SUCH AS RISING PRICES AND ENERGY CRISIS. HE CALLED FOR DRP NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMEN TO MEET WITH THEIR CONSTITUENTS BETWEEN NOW AND SPRING AND TRY TO SOOTHE PUBLIC FEELINGS.

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 08759 310602Z

3. GOVT PROVIDED TALKING MATERIAL FOR PERSUASION CAMPAIGN IN

THE FORM OF LEAFLET WITH 77 QUESTION AND ANSWERS ON FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC ISSUES. MATERIALS WERE PREPARED FOR DRP AND YUCHONGHOE USE IN EXPLAINING GOVT POLICIES TO THE PUBLIC. DEC. 29 PRESS CARRIED EXTENSIVE EXCERPTS. FIRST SECTION DEALS WITH DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY, PLAYING UP CONTINUING THREAT FROM THE NORTH AND PROBLEMS OF SHIFTING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ROK'S DETERMINATION AND FLEXIBILITY IN MEETING CHALLENGE. ON SOUTH-NORTH DIALOGUE, LEAFLET SEES POSSIBILITY THAT NORTH WILL SOFTEN ITS ATTITUDE IN NEAR FUTURE. ECONOMIC SECTION DISCUSSES PROSPECTIVE HARDSHIPS STEMMING FROM RISE IN PRICE OF FUEL AND RAW MATERIALS AND APPEALS FOR PUBLIC COOPERATION WITH GOVT EFFORTS TO COPE.

4. FOLLOWING IS TRANSLATION OF CHOSON ILBO SUMMARY OF SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

QUESTION: WHAT DOES GOVT HAVE IN MIND REGARDING AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE UNITED NATION COMMAND (UNC) AS SUGGESTED BY US SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER? WHAT MEASURES DOES GOVT HAVE TO COUNTER STEPPED-UP DEMAND FOR US TROOP WITHDRAWAL WHICH NORTH KOREA IS EXPECTED TO RAISE IF ALTERNATIVE IS PROVIDED?

ANSWER: ROKG CANNOT RPT NOT CONSIDER DISSOLUTION OF UNC AT PRESENT, BUT IT CAN BE CONSIDERED IF SOUTH AND NORTH REACH EFFECTIVE AGREEMENT ON PEACEFUL UNIFICATION OR IF SUBSTANTIAL MEANS ARE WORKED OUT FOR MAINTAINING PEACE ON KOREAN PENINSULA. US TROOPS WILL REMAIN IN KOREA IN ACCORDANCE WITH ROK-US MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY REGARDLESS OF DISSOLUTION OF UNC.

QUESTION: DOES GOVT HAVE CONCRETE PLANS TO IMPLEMENT ITS REPEATED POSITION CALLING FOR IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST CHINA, SOVIET UNION AND OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES?

ANSWER: GOVT HAS BEEN STRIVING TO MAKE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES UNDERSTAND OUR OPEN-DOOR POLICY. COMMUNIST CHINA, SOVIET UNION AND OTHER COMMUNIST BLOC COUNTRIES HAVE RECOGNIZED OUR POSITION TO SOME EXTENT, E.G. BY PARTICIPATION OF ROK TEAM IN MOSCOW UNIVERSIAD GAMES. POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES MAY BECOME POSSIBLE AFTER SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS OF EXCHANGES AT PRIVATE LEVEL.

QUESTION: WHAT ALTERNATIVE DOES GOVT HAVE TO NORTH KOREA'S PROPOSAL FOR A CONFEDERATION ON THE PENINSULA?

ANSWER: CURRENTLY SOUTH AND NORTH OPPOSE EACH OTHER WITH COMPLETELY CONTRARY POSITIONS LACKING ANY COMMON MEETING POINT. THIS PRECLUDES A CONFEDERAL SYSTEM. RATHER, IF CONFEDERATION IS FORMED IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES IT WILL LEAD TO UPHEAVALS AND DISORDER
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PAGE 03 SEOUL 08759 310602Z

IN BOTH SOUTH AND NORTH, FURTHER EXACERBATING TENSION AND CONFRONTATION. IT IS UNREASONABLE FOR NORTH TO URGE A CONFEDERATION LEADING TO FREE TRAVEL BETWEEN SOUTH AND NORTH WHEN THEY REFUSE EVEN TO ACCEPT OUR PROPOSAL FOR RED CROSS SEARCH OF DIVIDED FAMILIES.

5. CONCERNING PRESS FREEDOM, LEAFLET CITED THREE CATEGORIES OF REPORTS WHICH PRESS SHOULD NOT PRINT. THEY WERE:

- A. CHALLENGES OR DEFIANCE OF YUSHIN SYSTEM OR GOALS OF REVITALIZATION;
- B. ANYTHING WHICH WOULD JEOPARDIZE NATIONAL SECURITY AND DIPLOMACY; AND
- C. REPORTS LIKELY TO DAMAGE ECONOMIC STABILITY OR STIMULATE SOCIAL UNREST.

6. SPOKESMEN FOR BOTH OPPOSITION PARTIES ATTACKED PRESS GUIDELINES AS "OPPRESSIVE" AND A "GRAVE THREAT" TO CIVIL LIBERTY. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THESE GUIDELINES ARE IN FACT ALONG LINES EARLIER GIVEN TO THE PRESS ON AUTHORITY OF THE PRIME MINISTER, NOT A NEW POLICY DEPARTURE. UNDERHILL

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